

# The AmCit

US Embassy Luanda ACS Newsletter

January 2017

## Do You Need to Renew Your Passport?

2017 will be a busy year for the US government's passport services. Ten years ago the U.S. began requiring passports for trips to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, meaning many Americans got passports. Those passports are now expiring – and being renewed, which means lots of passports being produced at our printing facilities back in the U.S. The sooner you renew your passport, the sooner it will be ready. Passport renewals are quick and easy here at US Embassy Luanda: we currently have almost no wait time for appointments and we receive newly printed passports within two weeks of sending in your applications.



Photo courtesy of travel.state.gov

**Take a few minutes to check your passport! Do you know where it is and when it expires? If your passport expires in the next year, or if you are running out of pages, renew as soon as possible.** Remember to check your children's passports, too, as those expire after five years instead of ten.

Here's a list of items to bring to your passport appointment:

1. An appointment confirmation page.
2. Your passport payment. The consular section takes only cash, in kwanzas or dollars.
3. A completed DS-82. If you have lost your passport or the passport is for a minor, fill out DS-11. Both forms are available [here](#).
4. Your old passport.
5. A 5 cm square passport photo. If you wear glasses, please take your glasses off for the picture!
6. Make sure your social security number is on the application.
7. For minors, it is also necessary to bring both parents and the child's birth certificate.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Consular Section!

[Many People Renewing Passports!](#)

## Consular Contact Information

By Email: [consularluanda@state.gov](mailto:consularluanda@state.gov)

On the web: <https://angola.usembassy.gov/>

By Phone: (244) 222-641-000

Our American Citizen Services hours are 14:00-16:30 Monday through Thursday.

## Inside the US Embassy: The American Corner

The Public Diplomacy Section of the US Embassy, in partnership with the English Friendship Youth Club of Angola, runs a program in Luanda called The American Corner. This is a place where Angolans and others can meet to learn more about America, read English language books, use computers to browse the internet, and meet Americans. The American Corner in Luanda is located at the Centro Profissional do Cazenga, 5 Avenida Cazenga. The Centro is a vocational school which graciously provides space for the American Corner, which is open **Monday through Friday 9:30 to 16:00.**



Photo courtesy of Luanda IRC

The **Information Resource Center (IRC)**, located at the U.S. Embassy, is our research and reference service. It provides current information about American government, culture, and history, along with resources regarding the US-Angolan bilateral relationship as well as regional and global issues. The IRC is open to the public from **9:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 on Mondays and Tuesdays.**

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 12:00, the IRC will be hosting a College Day. Support your school and tell aspiring Angolan students why they should go. The IRC will attempt to contact your school in advance for promotional materials.

We encourage you to come visit the American Corner and the IRC! Find a book, meet someone, learn something new. If you'd like to volunteer to help others

learn about a subject you are interested in, to participate in our February 24 College Day event, and to learn about other opportunities, contact Sadraque Vicente at [pasinboxluanda@state.gov](mailto:pasinboxluanda@state.gov).



Photo courtesy of step.state.gov

## STEP On It!

The **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** registers you with the American Embassy during your time overseas. It allows us to contact you in case someone back home asks us to, or in case of a larger emergency or other announcement. You can go into the STEP system and specify what country you'll be in on any given date. Please keep your and your family's information updated -- it may be the only way we can find you in an emergency. You can enroll and edit your information online at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. You may also come in to the Consular Section and update your information during normal American Citizen Services hours.

## Closure Dates

The Embassy will be closed on the following dates:

January 16 – Martin Luther King Day

February 20 – Presidents' Day

February 28 – Carnaval

March 8 – International Women's Day

## Getting Ready to GO: Evacuation Crisis Preparedness



Photo courtesy of ready.gov

If you had 36 hours to board a plane, drive a car, or hop on a boat and leave Angola, **what would you take with you?** It's not a pleasant prospect, but similar situations have happened to Americans in several countries over the past couple of years. Here are a few things to think about now in order to be prepared:

1. If traveling by air, you will be able to bring only one suitcase and one carry-on per person. Pack only what you need and what is absolutely most precious to you. Include medicines. Excess luggage may have to be abandoned at the airport.
2. Bring dollars and credit cards. It might be wise to designate a credit card "for emergency use only." You will need to pay for airline tickets, and for transportation, food, and shelter in the country you evacuate to.
3. Bring passports and birth certificates for every member of your family. Make copies of them all and store/transport them in a different container than the originals.
4. Make prior provisions for your pets. Most likely, you will not be able to take your pets with you. What will be done with them? Who will take care of them? Do you have enough supplies to hand off to the caretaker for possibly a couple of months?

This is one of the cases where it is most practical to hope for the best and plan for the worst. Evacuations very rarely come without warning, except in the case of natural disaster. Keep your eye on the news and your ear on the radio. It is time to get out when **YOU** feel unsafe, not when someone else tells you it is. If you

leave earlier than a security notice tells you to, good for you! It means you do not have to compete for limited transportation options and that you are already safe. If you leave leaving until too late, there may not be enough resources available to you to keep you completely safe.

As always, the embassy will issue notices and warnings when we become aware of security problems. **The primary person in charge of your security is you.** If you feel unsafe, remove yourself immediately from the situation.



US Department of State (IIP) U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood

Some further reading:

[An article on being evacuated from Egypt](#)

[A short piece on go-bags](#)

### Request for Ideas

This newsletter is for American citizens in Angola. What topics would you like to be informed about? How can we make it better? Please send your comments and suggestions to [ACSLuanda@state.gov](mailto:ACSLuanda@state.gov)